

Materials Recycling Facility Information 2003

* This county-owned facility has been in operation since June 1991. A private company has been contracted to operate the plant and market the materials.

* The plant was expanded in 1996 from 18,880 sq. ft. to 29,312 sq. ft., increasing the processing capacity from 80 to 140 tons per day, adding full paper and container sort lines and adding a second floor education room.

* There are two sort lines: one for paper and one for containers. The private company has an average of 20 people working on the plant floor and 2 in the office. Employees on the sorting lines wear safety glasses, earplugs, special gloves, Terry cloth sleeves and "bump" caps.

* On the paper line, sorters pull off corrugated cardboard, phone books, unwanted mail/home office paper and newsprint/ magazines. Each type of paper is stored in holding bins until it's baled and stacked in the storage area awaiting pickup by a semi from one of the paper companies.

* On the container line, a screen separates small pieces of broken glass (mixed color) and sends it by conveyor to a storage area outside; next, a magnetic belt pulls off the steel/tin cans; then, a strong current of air pushes the lightweight plastics and aluminum cans to a separate conveyor belt for sorting by hand. Meanwhile, workers sort the glass bottles and jars by color - brown, green and clear.

* In 2003, the plant processed 24,093 tons of recyclables.

* Daily tonnage varies. The average is @ 80 - 85 tons per day or about 20 truckloads.

* Paper makes up about 70% of material processed.

Materials Shipped Out	Tonnage 2003***	% Material Processed	Cubic Yards of Landfill Space Saved	Number of Trees saved	Energy Savings (1)	Reduced T. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Paper*	14,997	70	36,711	180,216	1,402	9,741
Steel/Tin	656	3	2,946		146	394
Aluminum	373	2	1,734		559	1,457
Plastic**	1,307	6	6,654		295	678
Glass	3,963	19	5,473		146	438
TOTAL	21,437	100%	53,518		2,548	12,708

*Includes newspaper, phone books, magazines, corrugated cardboard, household mail/paper

**Includes PETE (#1 plastic bottles) and HDPE (#2 plastic bottles)

***Does not include scrap metal

(1) Equals energy use for number of households per year.